

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein initiating the reset of the computer system from the remote location, comprises:
interfacing the computer system via a remote connection; and
sending a request to a shut down agent in the computer system via the remote connection.

¹/₃. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of interrogating the computer system to determine types of diagnostic software to download onto the computer system.

¹/₄. The method of Claim 3, wherein interrogating the computer system comprises retrieving BIOS information from the computer system.

⁹/₅. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of downloading diagnostic software onto the computer system.

¹⁰/₆. The method of Claim 5, wherein downloading diagnostic software onto the computer system comprises transmitting data that includes diagnostic software code and a location in memory to write the diagnostic software code to a communications driver in the computer system.

³/₇. The method of Claim 2, wherein interfacing the computer system via a remote connection, comprises interfacing the computer system via an Ethernet connection to a management module connected to the computer system.

⁴/₈. The method of Claim 2, wherein interfacing the computer system via a remote connection, comprises interfacing the computer system via a modem connection to a management module connected to the computer system.

⁵/₉. The method of Claim 2, wherein interfacing the computer system via a remote connection, comprises interfacing the computer system via a serial connection to a serial

interface connected to the computer system.

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~~10.~~ The method of Claim 2, wherein interfacing the computer system via a remote connection, comprises interfacing the computer system via a modem connection to a serial interface connected to the computer system.

11. A method for managing a computer system, comprising:
determining whether a remote computer system is requesting a diagnostic session;
writing diagnostic software code received from the remote computer system into locations in memory as specified by the remote computer system; and
executing the diagnostic software on a computer system to be diagnosed without using an operating system stored within said computer system to be diagnosed.

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein determining whether a remote computer system is requesting a diagnostic session, comprises:
transmitting a query message to the remote computer system via a communications interface; and
monitoring the communications interface for a diagnostic session request message from the remote computer system.

13. The method of Claim 11, further comprising determining whether the remote computer system is authorized to participate in the diagnostic session.

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~~15.~~ A computer-readable medium having a sequence of instructions stored thereon, the sequence of instructions, when executed by a processor, causes the processor to:
determining whether a remote computer system is requesting a diagnostic session;
writing diagnostic code received from the remote computer system into locations in memory as specified by the remote computer system; and
executing the diagnostic software on a computer system to be diagnosed without

using an operating system stored within said computer system to be diagnosed.

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16. The computer-readable medium of Claim ¹⁴15, wherein determining whether a remote computer system is requesting a diagnostic session, comprises:

transmitting a query message to the remote computer system via a communications interface; and

monitoring the communications interface for a diagnostic session request message from the remote computer system.

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17. The computer-readable medium of Claim ¹⁴15, further comprising instructions which when executed by the processor causes the processor to determine whether the remote computer system is authorized to participate in a diagnostic session.

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18. The computer-readable medium of Claim ¹⁴15, wherein the computer-readable medium is a read only memory and the sequences of instructions are in a Basic Input Output System (BIOS) of a computer system.

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19. An apparatus, comprising:
a shutdown agent that resets a computer system in response to receiving a shut down request from a remote computer system;
a session manager that determines whether the remote computer system is requesting a diagnostic session; and

a data handler that writes diagnostic software code received from the remote computer system into locations in memory as specified by the remote computer system, said diagnostic software being enabled to be executed without using an operating system stored within said computer system.

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20. The apparatus of Claim ¹⁸19, further comprising a session authorizer that determines whether the remote computer system is authorized to request the diagnostic session.

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21. The apparatus of Claim 18, further comprising a system status provider that provides the remote computer system with information to determine types of diagnostic software to download to the computer system.

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22. A computer system, comprising:
a bus;
a memory coupled to the bus;
a diagnostic manager, coupled to the bus, that includes a shut down agent that resets a computer system in response to receiving a shut down request from a remote computer system, a session manager that determines whether the remote computer system is requesting a diagnostic session, and a data handler that writes diagnostic software code received from the remote computer system into locations in memory as specified by the remote computer system, said diagnostic software being enabled to be executed without using an operating system stored within said computer system.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. The following remarks are responsive to the Office Action mailed September 25, 2001.

35 U.S.C. 112, 1st para. Rejections

Claims 1, 11, 15, 19, and 22 are rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention.

Specifically, the Office Action asserts that the line, "The test run time environment 520 and diagnostic tests 540 are downloaded to memory 213 rather than run from the computer system peripheral disk drive" implies that the diagnostic software necessarily uses an operating system stored within the computer system.

However, the specification further describes that the diagnostic software is able to perform diagnostic operations when the operating system of the computer system is not functional (pg. 4, lns. 15-27 and pg. 5, lns. 1-2). Furthermore, one of ordinary skill in the art